

Contributed

THE WAY OF LIFE.

Let others pass the portal wide!

Go thou, repenting, through the narrow gates;

For life, believe on Christ who died,—

And for thy happiness trust God and wait.

Let others for vain pleasure live!

Choose thou a nobler object for thy quest;

To God, thy King, thy service give,—

The most denying are most richly blest.

Let others walk in boasting pride!

Seek thou, in truth, the earnest, helpful way;

The only fame that shall abide

Is for those proving faithful day by day.

Let others of tomorrow dream!

Do thou the simple task today hath brought;

Tomorrow, life's swift flowing stream

Bears thee to scenes of which thou knowest naught.

Let others strive this world to woo!

Win thou a smile on thy dear Father's face;

Find out what God would have thee do,—

Then do that well, as He shall give thee grace.

—Eugene P. Mickel, D. D.

Madison, Fla.

"AN URGENT NEED."

Rev. Henry H. Sweets, Secretary.

The reports from the Presbyteries now reaching our office indicate that there will be reported to the next General Assembly the largest number of candidates for the ministry in the whole history of our Church.

This is not surprising, for possibly never before have our people so faithfully obeyed the Master's command, "Pray ye the Lord of the harvest that He will thrust forth laborers into His harvest," as in the past five or six years.

We still have great reason to make this prayer. The harvest truly is plenteous. The fields are white, and bright with promise. The laborers still are few. Sickness, old age and death are busy among the tried and true. The recruits are pitifully inadequate. Let us not grow weary, or become satisfied too early. Let us rather thank God, take courage, and pray yet more believingly, constantly and intelligently.

With this increase in the number of candidates, there comes a large increase of money needed. Most of our candidates are from refined, but poor, homes—rich only in faith. They are expected to draw on their own resources to the fullest extent. Where the presbyteries find there is real need for some assistance they are recommended to the Executive Committee of Ministerial Education for help to the amount of \$100 per year, if they need that much in the actual prosecution of their work of preparation. About three-fifths of the candidates last year needed this help.

The greatest care is being taken to guard these funds from any abuse. Where a candidate fails to enter the ministry he is required to repay the money advanced to him. Many of those who have entered the ministry have repaid the amount received from our committee when they received sufficient salary. Many others have gone to hard mission fields, where, by self-denying labor, with insufficient salary, they have many times repaid the amounts received.

The General Assembly a few years ago adopted a plan whereby candidates may receive money as a loan if they so desire. Formal credit is given on the notes for service in mission fields, under the direction of the presbytery. The amount of credit given each year is the amount the salary falls short of \$800; e. g., if the salary is \$600, credit for \$200 will be given on the notes for each year of such service. Many of the candidates prefer this plan.

We are also making loans on the same basis to young men preparing to go as medical missionaries to the foreign field, who have been accepted by the Executive Committee of Foreign Missions.

We must have at least \$40,000 from the churches this year. Last year 1,513 churches made no offering to this work, and only sixty-four Sabbath-schools and seventeen societies forwarded any contributions.

Possibly there are individuals, churches, Sabbath-schools or societies who would like to assume the partial support—\$100 per year—of some of these men endorsed by the presbyteries as worthy and in real need. If so, please communicate as soon as possible with the Secretary, 122 Fourth Avenue, Louisville, Ky.

We hope all our people will contribute liberally to this cause through the local church, or to Mr. John Stites, Treasurer, 110 Fifth Street, Louisville, Ky.

Louisville, Ky.

THE DIVINE PRESENCE.

By Rev. D. W. Brannen.

"My presence shall go with thee." This is God's estimate of the supreme need of every human soul.

Our estimate of man's most vital need is that it consists in some particular revelation, or in some direct gift. If we say all of life could be read from beginning to end, if all of its experience could be revealed beforehand, we should be prepared for all of its vicissitudes. Or, if the gift of power were bestowed upon us, or of material possessions, we could meet all the crisis of life valorously.

We prefer the gifts of God to Himself. We estimate His favor by His gifts. He estimates His favor by His presence. When prosperity is our portion, when all things move smoothly, when there is no sickness in the home, and no trouble on the immediate horizon, we are prone to say, "God is with us, and is blessing us with His favor." We may be correct; we may be sadly mistaken. We cannot measure His favor by His gifts. "He maketh his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sendeth rain upon the just and the unjust" alike.

The best of the gifts of God are an incomplete expression of Him. They can give but a partial revelation of His adorable character. One moment of His presence in the soul is more illuminative than all of the gifts of gold mined from the beginning of time. One day of His presence brings more joy than all of the gifts of ability bestowed upon men of genius from the creation. The gifts of God may enrich the life: only His presence can satisfy the soul.

God is greater than all of His gifts combined. Emerson has pointed out that a man is always greater than the greatest of his achievements. After he has